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TARVIN RURAL DISTRICT

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Chief Public Health Inspector

For the year 1957



W. J. BIRCHALL,

M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

G. T. WOODS,

F.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

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CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1957

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the
Tarvin Rural District
for the year 1957

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Lady and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Tarvin Rural District for the year 1957.

The National Vital Statistics show an increase in the Birth Rate, and decreases in the Death and Infant Mortality Rates. The local Vital Statistics show a similar trend, compared with the previous year.

Measles (90 cases) and Whooping Cough (49 cases) were the chief infectious diseases notified, and again no case of Diphtheria was reported.

Despite this, however, I think it desirable to remind parents that Diphtheria Immunisation of children is still of the greatest importance as the risk of infection by this disease is still with us.

It is satisfactory to note that work is to commence on the new water mains at Hargrave, which should satisfy a very necessary requirement.

The long proposed schemes for the sewerage of Tarvin and Kelsall are still merely proposals and the deterioration in sanitary conditions at these villages will be seen from the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector. This has now become a matter of urgency.

At the end of the Report I have included an extract from my Report as Divisional Medical Officer on the Personal Health Services operating on behalf of the Cheshire County Council in the South West Cheshire Division, of which the Tarvin Rural District forms part.

The difficulties experienced in Poliomyelitis Vaccination are dealt with in that extract together with details of the Ambulance, Domestic Help and Welfare Foods Services.

In conclusion I would like to record my appreciation of the invaluable assistance of the Chief Public Health Inspector and the staff of the Health Department throughout the year, and their great help to me in compiling this Report.

I am, Your obedient Servant,

W. J. BIRCHALL, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

TARVIN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

General Provisions of Health Services for the Area.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councillor Charles Moss (Chairman)
,, G. W. Penk (Vice-Chairman)
,, L. N. Jones
,, T. B. Stevenson
,, H. E. Mottershead
,, F. Newport
,, J. G. Harding
,, Rev. E. H. Barnes
,, H. G. Lloyd
,, H. Lewis
,, J. Vernon
,, J. F. Windsor
,, H. Dimelow
,, R. N. Salmon

Ex-Officio:

Councillor F. Carr (Chairman of the Council).
,, F. N. Craddock (Vice-Chairman of the Council)

Clerk to the Council:

J. H. Moore-Dutton (Solicitor).

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

W. J. Birchall, M.B., Ch.B., (Hons.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.),
L.R.C.P. (London), D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector, Rodent Officer and Petroleum Officer:

G. T. Woods, F.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Public Health Inspector's Certificate (Joint Board); Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate (R.S.H.); Diploma in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works (R.S.H.); Certificate of examination for membership of the Institution of Public Health Engineers. Course in Bacteriology of Food Inspection.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

R. Mason, M.A.P.H.I., Public Health Inspector's Certificate (Joint Board); Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate (R.S.H.); Course in Bacteriology of Food Inspection.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

G. P. Walpole, M.A.P.H.I., Public Health Inspector's Certificate (Joint Board); Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate (R.S.H.); Course in Bacteriology of Food Inspection.

Clerk: A. Swain.

Clerk/Typist: Miss Jean Rock.

Rodent Operative: H. Williamson.

MEDICAL SERVICES

(a) **Laboratory Facilities.**

The services of the Public Health Laboratory Service, Birkenhead, and of Harold Lowe, Esq., M.Sc., F.I.C. Assay Office, are utilised for bacteriological and chemical examinations respectively.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities.**

Cases of infectious disease are removed to Clatterbridge Isolation Hospital, Clatterbridge. Cases of sickness and accident are removed to the Chester Royal Infirmary or the General Hospital, Clatterbridge, by the ambulance of the Cheshire County Council supplemented by the Chester City Ambulance as an Agency Service.

(c) **Nursing in the Home.**

There are District Nurses engaged in all the larger villages for attendance on the sick.

The trained Health Visitors of the County Council also visit the homes in the District for the purpose of advice, inspection and assistance under the maternity, child-welfare and tuberculosis schemes.

(d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics,** including clinics solely for the area are as follows:—

Farndon, Tattenhall, Tarvin, Kelsall and Malpas — Infant Welfare. Hoole — Ante and Post Natal, Infant Welfare, Orthopaedic, Dental and Speech Therapy.
Chester — Orthopaedic and Tuberculosis.

(e) **Hospitals.**

The General Hospital at Clatterbridge is available for residents in the area.

There are, in addition, smaller Cottage Hospitals in the neighbourhood, which receive patients from the area, viz.: Tarporley and Whitchurch.

Larger Hospitals are also available in Chester and Liverpool; for example, the Chester Royal Infirmary, Chester City Hospital, etc.

NATIONAL STATISTICS

The Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1957 was 16.1 per 1,000 population, compared with 15.7 for 1956.

The Death Rate for England and Wales for 1957 was 11.5 per 1,000 population compared with 11.7 for 1956.

The Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales, i.e., Death of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 births was 23.0, the rate for 1956 was 23.9.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Formation of District.

The Tarvin Rural District was created in 1894 from parts of the Unions of Tarvin and Whitchurch. The Rural District of Malpas was created at the same time from the Union of Whitchurch. The area of the District was varied in 1936 by the Chester County Review Order, and major portions of Tarvin and Malpas R.D.'s were amalgamated to form the present Tarvin Rural District.

Area: 62,593 acres.

Population, estimated by Registrar General Mid-Year, 1958	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	14,710
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books								4,571
Number of houses built (i.e., completed in 1957)—								
Private Enterprise	....	....	....	....	....			23
Council Houses	....	....	....	....	....			Nil
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1957	....	....	....					£118,433
Product of 1d. Rate at 1st April, 1957 (Estimated)								£469

The area is almost entirely agricultural and residential, farming being the largest labour-employing occupation. There are no other large industries.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1957

Births.

Live Births					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	....	....	....	....	114	114	228
Illegitimate	....	....	....	....	5	2	7
					119	116	235

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	15.97
Registrar General's Comparability Factor for Births	 1.06
Corrected Birth Rate	 16.92

Still Births.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	3	6
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	3	3	6

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 live and still births	 24.90
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	 0.41

TABLE OF COMPARATIVE BIRTH RATES

		Tarvin R.D.	Eng. & Wales			Tarvin R.D.	Eng. & Wales
1936	....	13.2	14.8	1947	....	20.7	20.5
1937	....	15.7	14.9	1948	....	22.6	17.9
1938	....	14.9	15.1	1949	....	17.9	16.7
1939	....	15.7	15.0	1950	....	18.0	15.8
1940	....	15.0	14.6	1951	....	17.1	15.5
1941	....	15.8	14.2	1952	....	18.4	15.3
1942	....	17.6	15.8	1953	....	17.2	15.5
1943	....	18.5	16.5	1954	....	14.1	15.2
1944	....	17.7	17.6	1955	....	16.2	15.0
1945	....	15.9	16.1	1956	....	15.11	15.7
1946	....	19.5	19.1	1957	....	16.9	16.1

	Deaths	
Male	Female	Total
93	95	188

Crude Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	....	....	....	....	....	....	12.78
Registrar General's Comparability Factor for Deaths	....						0.99
Corrected Death Rate	....	....	....	....	....	....	12.65

TABLE OF COMPARATIVE DEATH RATES

		Tarvin R.D.	Eng. & Wales			Tarvin R.D.	Eng. & Wales
1936	....	13.3	12.1	1947	....	12.7	12.0
1937	....	10.9	12.4	1948	....	12.3	10.8
1938	....	11.5	11.6	1949	....	11.0	11.7
1939	....	13.7	12.1	1950	....	11.6	11.6
1940	....	14.1	14.3	1951	....	12.3	12.5
1941	....	10.7	12.9	1952	....	11.4	11.3
1942	....	10.1	11.6	1953	....	9.9	11.4
1943	....	11.3	12.1	1954	....	10.4	11.3
1944	....	12.6	11.6	1955	....	12.12	11.7
1945	....	12.9	11.4	1956	....	13.18	11.7
1946	....	13.6	11.5	1957	....	12.65	11.5

MATERNAL MORTALITY (excluding Abortion)

From Puerperal Sepsis	....	....	....	....	....	Nil
From other Puerperal or Maternal Causes	....	....	....	....	....	Nil
Natural increase in population (excess of births over deaths)						47

**TABLE OF POPULATION ESTIMATED BY R.G. AND
NATURAL INCREASE
(Excess of Births over Deaths)**

Year	Estimated Pop.	R.G.	Natural Increase	Year	Estimated Pop.	R.G.	Natural Increase
1936		14,053	 2	1947	....	14,550	 117
1937		14,160	 50	1948	....	14,550	 80
1938		14,150	 52	1949	....	14,530	 96
1939		16,010	 22	1950	....	14,520	 77
1940		15,030	 13	1951	....	14,630	 39
1941		—	 80	1952	....	14,550	 73
1942		—	 112	1953	....	14,640	 81
1943		—	 104	1954	....	14,750	 26
1944		14,110	 71	1955	....	14,740	 25
1945		14,010	 57	1956	....	14,730	 12
1946		14,480	 85	1957	....	14,710	 47

INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age:—

				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	....	....	....	2	2	4
Illegitimate	....	....	....	1	—	1
				3	2	5

Infant Mortality Rate, i.e., deaths of infants under 1 year
per 1,000 live births 17.02

TABLE OF COMPARATIVE INFANT MORTALITY RATES

		Tarvin R.D.	Eng. & Wales			Tarvin R.D.	Eng. & Wales
1936	....	71.4	59	1947	....	59.6	41
1937	....	70.8	58	1948	....	46.3	34
1938	....	52.2	53	1949	....	23.1	32
1939	....	63.1	50	1950	....	26.7	29.8
1940	....	53.6	55	1951	....	33.6	29.6
1941	....	51.2	59	1952	....	35.3	27.6
1942	....	26.5	49	1953	....	16.7	26.8
1943	....	30.0	49	1954	....	15.5	25.5
1944	....	40.0	46	1955	....	40.4	24.9
1945	....	58.8	46	1956	....	33.65	23.8
1946	....	56.5	43	1957	....	17.02	23.0

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY

Deaths of Infants under FOUR WEEKS of age:—

				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	....	....	....	1	1	2
Illegitimate	....	....	....	—	—	—
				1	1	2

DEATHS FROM CERTAIN SELECTED CAUSES

			Male	Female
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	....	....	1	—
Other forms of tuberculosis	....	....	—	—
Cancer of lung	....	....	1	—
Cancer of all other sites	....	....	13	18
Intra-Cranial vascular lesions	....	....	11	14
Heart disease	....	....	37	32
Other diseases of circulatory system	....	....	2	5
Influenza	....	....	1	2
Pneumonia	....	....	3	5
Bronchitis	....	....	2	2
Other respiratory diseases	....	....	2	1
Nephritis	....	....	—	1
Prostate	....	....	3	—
Congenital malformations	....	....	1	1
Road traffic accidents	....	....	2	1
Other violent	....	....	3	1
All other causes	....	....	11	12
Total all causes	....	....	93	95

Deaths from Cancer (all sites) numbered 32; in the previous year there were 26.

Deaths from Heart Disease numbered 69 compared with 67 in 1956.

Deaths from Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions were 25; there were 42 in 1956.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases (other than tuberculosis) during the year 1957

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	3	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Enteric and Paratyphoid	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Pneumonia	11	—	—
Cerebro spinal meningitis	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Encephalitis lethargica	—	—	—
Erysipelas	2	—	—
Measles	90	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	49	—	—
	155	—	—

NUMBER OF CASES OF DIPHTHERIA NOTIFIED IN THE DISTRICT

1936	....	....	25	1943	....	....	6
1937	....	....	10	1944	....	....	4
1938	....	....	35	1945	....	....	5
1939	....	....	15	1946	....	....	2
1940	....	....	27	1947	....	....	1
1941	....	....	17	1948/57	....	....	Nil
1942	....	....	9				

TUBERCULOSIS

New cases and Mortality during the year 1957

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M	F			M	F
Under 5		—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14		—	1	—	2	—	—	—
15—24		—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—44		1	2	—	1	—	—	—
45—64		—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards		—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Age unknown		1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals		2	3	—	3	1	—	—

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47

The Council have powers under the above Act to arrange for the removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

I am glad to record again that there has been no need for me to represent compulsory removal for any of the cases investigated during the year. The provision of a home help and benevolent supervision by the Public Health Inspector and Health Visitor have proved sufficient to remedy undesirable conditions and permit the patient to remain in his or her own home with its familiar associations.

Brucellosis.

During the spring reports were received from an outside authority that milk bottled on a farm in this area had proved positive to the ring test.

Arrangements were made to pasteurise all milk from this farm while investigations were in progress. Following individual samples taken from the herd and examined, the Laboratory returned positive results of the ring test on three of the cattle. The cultures of these resulted in two positive and one doubtful.

Under the supervision of the Veterinary Officer of the Ministry, these three cattle were isolated from the herd and the milk from these segregated for heat treatment.

Two of these cows later returned negative cultures and were returned to the herd. The remaining cow was disposed of to a farm where all the milk was normally sent for pasteurisation.

Geriatric Services.

The Staff of the Department continued to co-operate with Local Health Authority Staff, namely, Health Visitors, Domestic Helps and Welfare Officers in the supervision of aged and infirm residents in the district. Many of these aged persons were living alone, some in hermit-like conditions, and required assistance of various sorts, including in some instances, hospital accommodation. Difficulty was met with in a number requiring hospital accommodation, in securing admission. In such cases the general practitioner concerned, when one had been consulted, appealed to the Medical Officer of Health for help in securing hospital admission.

Several instances, where it was impossible to secure hospital admission, were reported to the Health Committee, and the Council made representation to the local Members of Parliament. The Medical Officer of Health in turn reported these difficulties to the Senior Medical Officer of the Regional Hospital Board. In common with many other parts of the country, there appears to be a serious shortage of suitable hospital accommodation for the aged sick and infirm in this area.

Towards the end of the year it was reported that the Regional Hospital Board had appointed a Specialist Consultant Geriatrician for the Chester district, and it was hoped that a better distribution of hospital beds in the area would improve the situation, and better accommodation for the aged sick and infirm would become available in the near future.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Details of piped water supplies in the various parishes of the District are as given in my previous report.

Mr. Thomas Pritchard, Engineer and Surveyor to the Council, has supplied me with the following information on new water mains and sewers installed during the year.

Water Schemes completed during year ending 31/12/57.

						Linear Yards
Tushingham — Section 2	....	....	....	....	....	2,184
Crewe/Farndon	....	....	....	....	....	2,252
Tilston (Rectory)	....	....	....	....	....	675
Carrs Lane, Tattenhall	....	....	....	....	....	1,000
				Total	....	6,111

Water Schemes Proposed

Malpas Improvement Trunk Main.

Scheme prepared and submitted to Ministry. Ministry Inquiry held and approval received. Estimated cost £3,840.

Bruen Stapleford and Hargrave.

Scheme submitted to Ministry. Approval not yet received. Estimated cost £22,660.

Duddon Common.

Scheme approved and work in progress. 950 lin. yards 3". Estimated cost £1,600.

Schemes in Preparation.

General scheme for the improvement of foul and surface water drainage in the Springfield Area of Malpas, in conjunction with Cheshire County Council.

Waverton Sewage — Stage 1 completed.

Tarvin Sewage — No change.

Kelsall Sewage — No change.

Premises supplied with water.

Domestic	....	....	....	....	....	....	2,498
Trade	....	....	....	....	....	....	868
Total	....	....	....	....	....	....	3,366

REPORT

of the

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the Year ending December 1957

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
TARVIN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Lady and Gentlemen,

The original Tarvin Rural District created in 1894 was reviewed and reconstituted in 1936 when major portions of Tarvin and Malpas Rural Districts were amalgamated. Many improvements in environmental sanitation have taken place over the past 21 years.

In retrospect, Malpas in 1936 was the only village with a main sewerage system. The need for main sewers at Farndon, Tattenhall, Tarvin and Kelsall was emphasised in the Report of Dr. W. E. Burton, Medical Officer of Health at that time. The new Public Health and Housing Acts were passed in July and the overcrowding survey was commenced. Mains water supply was confined to the Malpas, Beeston, Kelsall and Ashton Areas. Private piped supplies served a few estates. The same Report stated that there were twenty-five private slaughterhouses in the District but the number of animals slaughtered was unknown. Refuse collection was carried out by private contractors in a few villages.

The war has intervened with its problems of receiving and accommodating evacuees in the District but since then the Council have steadily extended their water mains and provided main sewers to Tattenhall, Farndon, Tilston, Duddon, Ashton and other smaller villages. Nearly 500 new Council Houses have been built. 100% inspection of meat is now maintained at nine slaughterhouses. The refuse collection service is carried out by direct labour to serve every village and conurbation. Privy middens are practically extinct. Many hundreds of pail closets have been converted and if the main sewerage of Tarvin and Kelsall is excepted, considerable progress has been made in general sanitation.

During 1957, housing inspection; repairs and improvements; the supervision of food premises and isolated water supplies; meat inspection; new drainage schemes and rodent control have formed a major portion of the work of the Public Health Department.

Financial crises, like the indigent seem to be always with us, and unfortunately no Council Houses were built during the year. This affected the Council's slum clearance programme, as casual vacant tenancies do not occur very frequently in those areas where they are most needed. The black spot at present is at Tarvin where the lack of alternative accommodation is holding up action on several unfit properties, and the absence of a sewer is preventing conversions and improvements as well as new building. Finance sways most major decisions and although a new sewer may not produce direct revenue like a water main extension, can the value of improved village sanitation be measured in terms of £ s. d.?

The carcasses of all animals slaughtered in the District for human consumption were inspected. There was a further increase in the total kill over last year.

Health education by schools, press, radio and television is having a marked effect on the higher standards of environmental hygiene demanded by the rural population. Conditions accepted as normal up to a few years ago are now the subject of complaint to the Department for remedial action. For example we receive complaints that a cottage has no bath or hot water system, there are many requests for a more frequent refuse collection, and complaints are made about " farm smells " and foul ditches that at one time were considered an essential part of a rural dweller's life, and even desirable for isolation.

In the difficult financial circumstances prevailing during 1957, it will be seen that past progress has been somewhat slowed, but I am hopeful that acceleration will follow very soon.

I must record my appreciation of the confidence and support of the Council and for the advice and co-operation readily given by Dr. W. J. Birchall, the Clerk and other Chief Officers. The staff of the Department have given their usual loyalty and industry during the year and the results are to be read in the following pages.

Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE T. WOODS,

F.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

WATER

During the year regular samples were taken periodically from every main supply of the Statutory undertakers in the District.

In addition many isolated supplies were sampled for analysis and in cases of adverse results, reports were made to your Public Health and Works Committees for consideration for mains extensions where suitable.

A total of 133 water samples were taken during the year, made up of 95 samples taken from local supplies and 38 from the mains.

These were analysed at the Public Health Laboratory, Birkenhead, and suitable action taken on unsatisfactory reports. The extension of mains continued during 1957, and this enabled several doubtful local supplies to be superseded.

Foulk Stapleford.

During the third quarter of the year individual samples were taken from 48 dwelling houses and 26 farms in the Hargrave area and a detailed report made to the Public Health Committee on the results.

The Department has long been aware of the urgent need for piped water supplies in this particular area and previous representations have been made on the matter.

This time, however, the Agricultural Executive Committee and the National Farmers Union supported the urgency of the need for an adequate and wholesome water supply to the farms involved. These reports were submitted to the Ministry at the end of the year with a request for their agreement to proceed with the scheme for the extension of the mains which had been prepared already by Mr. T. Pritchard, the Council's Engineer, some time previously. A decision had not been received at the close of the year, but as this is the one area in the District most in need of water mains it is hoped that permission will not be withheld.

Since the above was written the Ministry have intimated to the Council that the scheme may proceed.

The Council can be proud of the real progress made since the war in the general provision of water mains throughout the District and now the Hargrave scheme is to become a reality there is still further cause for satisfaction.

HOUSING

Although there has been a great improvement in housing conditions in the District in the post war years, the cessation of council house building on financial grounds slowed up progress during 1957. Despite this a great many housing repairs were carried out by owners following informal action by your Public Health Inspectors.

It is rarely that statutory powers have to be resorted to, and the usual procedure of the officials of the Department is in conformity with the recommendation of the recent report of the Franks Committee. It is always on the basis that "the individual has the right to enjoy his property without interference from the administration unless that interference is unmistakably justified in the public interest."

Certificates of Disrepair.

Following the coming into operation of the Rent Act, 1957 and the elapse of the necessary six weeks waiting period required under Form G, four applications on Form I were received by the Council.

In all four cases Certificates of Disrepair were granted.

Overcrowding.

While an accurate figure for the number of houses or families overcrowded in the District cannot be given without a full survey, it is known from 148 housing applications investigated by the Department in 1957, that the overcrowding of 13 families comprising 58 persons was relieved by the provision of a council house.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

Number of houses rendered fit by informal action	....	62
Number of houses rendered fit after statutory action	....	5
Number of Demolition Orders made	.... ....	6
Number of Closing Orders made	.... ....	8
Number on which Undertakings accepted not to relet unfit premises but convert for farm stock	.... ....	4
Number on which Undertakings to make house fit offered and accepted	.... ....	1
Number on which Undertakings were cancelled after being made fit	.... ....	1
Number on which Demolition or Closing Orders were cancelled after being made fit	.... ....	2

Summary of Housing Action taken during Post War Period.

	1946/56	1957	Total
Houses on which Demolition Orders have been made	66	6	72
Houses on which Closing Orders have been made	14	8	22
Unfit houses on which Undertakings to make them fit have been accepted	21	1	22
Unfit houses on which Undertakings have been accepted to convert to use for farm stock or store. (Not to permit human habitation)	6	4	10

Council House Tenancies.

The records of housing applications and tenancies are kept by the Public Health Department, who supply full reports on the housing need of each applicant, after investigations by a visit to the house by one of your Public Health Inspectors. 148 new applications were received and at the close of the year the Register of Applications totalled 207.

Two new council bungalows were occupied early in January 1957 and in addition 29 casual vacant tenancies became available.

Total number of council houses tenanted at 31st Dec., 1957	665
Total number of above with tenants in agriculture	200

POST WAR HOUSE BUILDING

1946/57			1946/57		
Ashton	....	26	Malpas	....	94
Beeston	....	10	Oscroft	....	8
Nomansheath (Bickley)	....	8	Shocklach	....	4
Broxton	....	4	Tarvin	....	32
Clutton	....	14	Tattenhall (Edgecroft)	....	8
Coddington	....	4	Tattenhall	....	66
Duddon	....	27	Tilston	....	34
Edge	....	8	Tiverton	....	12
Farndon	....	60	Waverton	....	4
Gatesheath	....	8			—
Huxley	....	4	TOTAL	....	479
Kelsall	....	44			—

Housing of Old People.

The Council have made special provision for the housing of elderly couples or single persons by the provision of two bedroom bungalows on their housing sites at Malpas (20 bungalows), Tattenhall (8 bungalows), Beeston (2 bungalows), Tilston (4 bungalows) and Ashton (4 bungalows).

In any new building programme the provision of bungalows should have the highest priority for the purposes of slum clearance, as many of the unfit cottages awaiting action are occupied by elderly persons who would under-occupy a family house.

There is other accommodation provided for old people in the District at the Maria Taylor Almshouses, Malpas, on which improvements to modern standards are now proceeding with the assistance of a grant to the Trustees under the provisions of the Housing Acts, 1949/57.

Licensing of Condemned Houses.

There are no condemned dwellings licensed for temporary occupation.

Housing Acts, 1949/54 — Improvement Grants.

There were 14 applications outstanding at the end of 1956 and of these six were not proceeded with, one case was refused and for the remaining seven applications grants amounting to a total of £1,467 were made in respect of improvements costing an estimated £2,937. Repairs in addition were estimated at £666.

Twenty-seven preliminary applications were received and investigated during 1957. (There were forty-three in the previous year). Three were not eligible. For example in one case all amenities required already existed and the proposals were for luxury extensions.

A further six were not proceeded with after the owners had received details of the standard of works required and the list of repairs to be done as a condition of grant.

Five grants to a total of £1,518 were approved for improvements estimated to cost £3,480 and involving repairs costing an additional estimated £1,870.

This sum for repairs included the complete internal reconstruction of an old cottage, which resembled a fruit with an artistically appealing exterior but internally was dark and unpleasant. The ground floor had in fact been used to house stock since the previous tenant had left. The reconstruction and repairs were carried out to a very high standard to give modern accommodation, while preserving the rural external appearance.

Further details of the balance of 13 applications were still awaited at the end of the year.

During 1957, therefore, a total of £2,985 was granted for twelve houses for improvements estimated to cost £6,417. In addition repairs estimated to cost £2,536 were involved. Nine of these dwellings were occupied by rent paying tenants and the remaining three were owner-occupied. Three of these grants were for the maximum of £400.

Summary of Improvement Grants.

For the five years 1949 to 1953 grants totalled £1,392 for improvements costing £2,784 to five tenanted dwellings involving repairs estimated at £250.

For the four years 1954 (when the Act was amended) to 1957, one hundred and thirty-seven applications were investigated and a total of £13,880 made in grants for work estimated at £30,274 and repairs at £5,525 in respect of fifty-two dwellings. In twelve of these the maximum grant of £400 was made. Forty dwellings were occupied by tenants and twelve by owners.

DRAINAGE

105 drainage plans were deposited during 1957 for examination and approval. These involved several visits to the site by your inspectors to supervise and test the work.

In addition the steady conversion of pail closets and connections to new village sewerage schemes continued.

Drainage in combination is advocated wherever possible in order to save unnecessary expense and the drainage plans are prepared for the owners by the Department as a further encouragement to modernise drainage without undue formality.

A great deal of trouble is repeatedly being experienced at Kelsall and Tarvin owing to the difficulties of adequate disposal of foul drainage. Many of the post war septic tanks installed were permitted as a temporary measure until the expected public sewer was provided. The delay in providing a main sewer to both these villages is giving rise to increasing disposal problems, and the land used for disposal of effluent on the older installations has become sewage sick in many cases causing leakage of effluent through garden walls on to the roadway.

Every washing day the road drains carry a heavy volume of sullage and their outfalls are heavy with soap suds and detergent.

In Tarvin village in particular many of the inhabitants have no ready disposal for burial of night soil and the occupiers have to carry their pails through the streets to the garden of a co-operative neighbour or relative.

Only the provision of main sewers at both these villages will solve these pressing problems, permit development and enable the existing pollution to be remedied.

New building which has been practically stopped in Tarvin for some years will also soon have to cease in Kelsall. With the passing of time the number of nuisances from escaping tank effluents will grow and I cannot emphasise too strongly that something should be done without further delay.

New dwelling houses erected in the District during the year were all supplied with water closets.

There have also been a number of conversions of pails to water-closets.

Rivers and Streams.

The Tarvin Rural District is in the areas of the River Dee and Clwyd Catchment Board and the Cheshire Rivers Board.

Co-operation is maintained between your Public Health Officers and the Boards' officials.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

A regular fortnightly collection of refuse has been maintained in the main villages and built up areas and the outlying districts serviced either fortnightly or monthly according to their location and the vehicles and labour available.

The number of premises and the volume of refuse to be moved is steadily increasing, and it is quite a problem to maintain a service when even one man is off sick or a wagon has a breakdown.

The time is approaching when the Council must make a decision as to either a further restriction in the regular collection area or to increase the manpower and vehicles which has been static since 1946.

Many new residents in the District complain that they do not get the service which they have previously received in a town and many such people have been ready with criticism and advice as to how the refuse collection service should be run. A philosopher once wrote to the effect that — “ No man undertakes a trade he has not learnt, yet everyone thinks himself qualified for the hardest of all trades — local government.”

A great many manhours could be saved with a kerbside instead of a back door collection, but as the residents of the District have been used to having bins carried and returned to the back door since the service was commenced with direct labour, I believe there would be an uproar if the Council required that occupiers should now put their bins at the kerbside for emptying. In this connection there is also the difficulty of keeping to the special collection day for a particular village during the winter months when schedules often have to be changed at short notice to cope with inclement weather, breakdowns or absence of men. Bins on the kerbside might become an obstruction.

Disposal.

Disposal is by controlled tipping and much land has already been reclaimed for agricultural use. The Council are fortunate in having many such sites in the District.

Barton tip is now closed and awaiting a top dressing to bring back into use this previously disused quarry. Churton Quarry is now in use.

The larger tips in the District are situated at Waverton, Iddinshall, Malpas, Churton and Bickley. There are also small tips at Burwardsley, Mouldsworth and Tiverton.

Salvage.

A restricted salvage collection is made in conjunction with the refuse service. Income from salvage was received in respect of the following:—

		1957/58		Previous Year
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Waste Paper	....	230 12 6	....	242 15 0
Scrap Metal	....	12 19 2	....	18 0 0
Rags and Sacking	....	— — —	....	20 17 4
		£243 11 8	....	£281 12 4

The net cost of the Refuse and Salvage Collection Service for the year ending 31st March, 1958 was £6,434 8s. 5d.

Camping Sites.

No licences under the Public Health Act, 1936 have been issued by the Council during the year in relation to sites or individual moveable dwellings.

Control under the Town and Country Planning Act is in operation with respect to certain caravans brought into the District for permanent residence.

There is one site for five caravans approved under planning control.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

During the early part of the year four cases of insanitary conditions were reported to the Department by the Police involving elderly people living alone who were unable to look after themselves or the cleanliness of their dwelling.

In three of these cases the occupants were removed to hospital for treatment and in the other case the tenant voluntarily entered a County Hostel for aged persons.

The usual action was taken to destroy any unwholesome contents of the houses and to have the dwellings cleaned.

The year has been a very busy one for the Department's officers with housing repairs, and a great deal has been done in the District in relation to improvements in sanitation.

Informal requests and persuasion are used as far as possible before cases are reported to Committee for official statutory action. This explains the low number of formal notices served, as only informal action is usually necessary.

The following list gives an indication of part of your Inspectors' activities during 1957 where such are not dealt with elsewhere in this report:—

Informal notices served re—

Housing defects	....	....	....	....	....	160
Unsatisfactory water supply	....	....	....	....	....	2
Defective drainage	....	....	....	....	....	51
Dirty conditions	....	....	....	....	....	6
Provision of dustbins	....	....	....	....	....	1
Insanitary closets	....	....	....	....	....	10
Foul ditches	....	....	....	....	....	22
Leaking gutters and downspouts	....	....	....	....	....	8
Offensive accumulations	....	....	....	....	....	25
Food and Drugs Act, 1955	....	....	....	....	....	12
Rat infestations	....	....	....	....	....	28
Defects in factories	....	....	....	....	....	4
Petroleum spirit stores	....	....	....	....	....	6
Food premises	....	....	....	....	....	36
Number of written complaints received at this office	....	....	....	....	....	239

In addition many complaints are made verbally to the inspectors during their District work or by visits or by telephone to the inspectors' private houses.

Shops.

The Council is responsible for the enforcement of the Shops Act, 1950 in respect to the ventilation, lighting, temperature and sanitary accommodation of shops in the district where labour is employed.

Informal action was taken in a few cases regarding sanitary accommodation but no statutory action was necessary during 1957.

Factories Act, 1937 and 1948.

67 factories are on the register. These include 12 non-power and 55 power. Following inspection a notice to remedy defects was served on one occupier. This was complied with without further action. Other cases found were dealt with by verbal caution.

Factories Act, 1938 and 1948.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health:—

Premises	No. on Register	No. of inspections	Formal notices served
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authorities	12	15	1
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	55	36	—
Totals	67	51	1

Outworkers.

There were no outworkers on the register during 1957.

Smoke Abatement.

Following complaint, observations on commercial chimneys were carried out from time to time. Informal action was taken in respect of one factory where defective firing and overloading of the boiler caused complaint. A new boiler has now been installed.

During the year the Council have taken no action under the Clean Air Act, 1956.

ERADICATION OF INSECT VERMIN

Three dwellings were treated against cockroaches during the year.

A complaint was received of wood lice reputed to be breeding in the floor timbers of an old house which had been standing empty for a few months. Treatment with D.D.T. eradicated the vermin.

No infestations of bedbugs was reported.

A report has been made under the Food section regarding an infestation of beetles in a bakery.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

The Council are the statutory body with responsibilities for the inspection of premises, and powers to deal with the destruction of rats and mice found on all properties under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The Cheshire Agricultural Executive Committee maintain a service for treating farms, and infestations found on agricultural premises are referred in the first instance to the C.A.E.C. by mutual agreement.

The Council's disinfestation service is kept as self supporting as possible. Its very nature however creates the position that the more successfully the Council clear premises of rat infestation, the less is the demand for renewed contracts from satisfied users, until re-infestation occurs. A small nominal charge is made for treating dwelling houses.

In February a maintenance treatment of 7 manholes on the Farn-don and Tattenhall sewers was carried out. These had been found infested during the 1956 tests.

The first bi-annual test baiting of the Council's sewers later in the year showed negative results on all systems except a few man-holes at Kelsall. These were treated and will be re-tested in 1958 in accordance with the Ministry's requirements.

The Ministry's inspector visits the Council's tips and sewerage works from time to time and has recently expressed his complete satisfaction with the control exercised by the Council.

The following is an extract from the annual returns made to the Ministry :—

	Local Authority Property (Not sewers)	Dwellings including C. Houses	Non- Agric. Business Premises	Agricultural Premises	TOTAL
No. of Inspections made	681	253	446	351	1731
No. of Treatments Carried Out	72	25	46	19	162
No. of Sewer Manholes Tested	— 102.				

Knackers Yard.

Following the completion of the reconstruction and improvements at the Malpas Knackers Yard your Public Health Committee agreed to issue a full annual licence to include the special permission to slaughter horses.

The Management are aware of the necessity to avoid any nuisance as far as possible and with the new buildings and plant, precautions are taken against such an occurrence.

For some years prior to the new reconstruction, regular monthly treatments were necessary to keep heavy rodent infestation under control. Since completion of the new works however, tests have revealed that the premises are clear and not a single infestation has been reported.

Special arrangement of the lairage and slaughter hall have been made to comply with the Regulations. This is the only premises in the District which is licensed for the slaughter of horses.

During the year thirty-one horses were slaughtered and twenty-five brought in as carcasses; out of a total of over 2,000 live and dead animals dealt with.

Schools.

An inspection of school canteens to see that they comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations has been arranged as a combined operation between the County Public Health Department and this office.

The question of Harthill water supply has been raised with the Education Authority who stated they are anxious to have this supply improved and it is hoped this will be done at an early date.

At Tilston school, the school closets have been converted to water closets with new drainage to the Public Sewer.

At Handley, the school closets have been converted to water closets with drainage to a modern septic tank and filter.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

80 premises in the District where food is prepared, offered or exposed for sale have been frequently visited during the year and action taken to have facilities installed to comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations. Dairy farms are supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

This work is of great importance to ensure that properly clean conditions and methods are observed in the back rooms where food is prepared for sale to the public.

The premises known to the Department as being engaged in the handling, preparation or the sale of food include:—

Ice Cream retailers	....	....	....	....	....	49
Cafes (no cooked meals)	....	....	....	....	....	11
Restaurants (cooked meals)	....	....	....	....	....	11
Licensed premises	....	....	....	....	....	41
Abattoirs	....	....	....	....	....	9
Butchers' shops	....	....	....	....	....	16
Other miscellaneous (grocers, confectioners, etc.)	....	....	....	....	....	40
Fried Fish Shops	....	....	....	....	....	4
Bakeries	....	....	....	....	....	16

Verbal cautions were given in cases where the condition of the premises had been allowed to deteriorate. No statutory action was necessary however.

Foreign Body in Food.

A loaf of bread was brought to the office by a housewife who complained that it contained a beetle. This was found on examination to be of the species *Blatta orientalis*.

Investigations at the bakery showed the presence of a small infestation of these vermin, and the proprietor protested that he regularly treated his premises with a beetle powder, and had taken all precautions possible.

Following advice he immediately called in a firm of specialists in disinfestation and had the premises properly treated. He made arrangements for the future regular inspection and disinfestation by this firm.

Your Public Health Committee considered a report of all the facts and the circumstances of this case, and decided not to prosecute but to caution the proprietor in this instance. A strong warning was given that any repetition would result in proceedings with all its attendant publicity and penalties on conviction.

Milk.

Under the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order 1955, the Tarvin Rural District is a specified area, making compulsory the use of special designations for all retail sales of milk.

Milk obtained by farmworkers from their employers is exempted.

The supervision of milk production is in the hands of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food but random samples of milk are taken by the County Council for biological examination.

Milk distributors and Dairies are registered and Dealers' and Supplementary Licences are still issued by the District Council.

No. of Registered Dairies (not Dairy Farms)	....	....	4
No. of Registered Milk Distributors	....	....	19
No. of Dealers' Licences issued	....	....	6
No. of Supplementary Licences issued	....	....	7

The Medical Officer of Health has commented on a case of suspected infection of Milk under Brucellosis on pages 10 and 11.

Ice Cream.

49 premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice cream, almost all of these are limited to the pre-wrapped product which is less likely to be contaminated than the loose article.

There are a few travelling retailers in the District. Frequent samples are taken by your Public Health Officers for analysis at the Laboratory, and a check is made on the standard of hygiene and cleanliness of the vehicles of retailers.

No. of samples analysed	....	....	....	....	23
No. of samples resulting in Grade 1	....	....	....	....	23
No. of samples resulting in Grade 2	....	....	....	....	—
No. of samples resulting in Grade 3	....	....	....	....	—
No. of samples resulting in Grade 4	....	....	....	....	—

Food Poisoning.

There were no cases of food poisoning notified in the District during the year.

Disease of Animals Acts.

Notifications of suspected Anthrax during 1957	....	....	69
Notifications confirmed as Anthrax	....	....	4

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection.

Meat inspection is a problem for most local authorities, with the necessity for examination at all sorts of hours to suit the trade. There has to be regular out of hours inspection in order to maintain the 100% examination of all carcasses slaughtered for human consumption in the District.

Meat Marking is in operation and routine inspection is carried out in conformity with the Ministry Memorandum 3 on Meat Inspection.

This has no legal backing yet and a heavy responsibility rests on the inspector to see that the owner of the meat is not penalised by unnecessary loss, and on the other hand that the public are not exposed to the risk of consumption of infected meat. Your inspectors are well qualified and experienced and the slaughtermen accept their judgments. There was no instance where it became necessary to use powers to seize unsound meat.

There are nine licensed slaughterhouses in the District. None of these are licensed for the slaughter of horses.

A new Slaughterhouses Bill is before Parliament as I write. Since de-control in 1954 we have already had one Act and the new Bill will become the second. There have also been two Food and Drugs Acts and the Slaughter of Animals Acts.

With new Regulations in addition, and the proposal to extend the Factories Act to certain abattoirs, slaughtering law is likely to get quite involved.

There are two pig Deadweight Certification Centres approved by the Ministry at Hampton and Huxley. Your inspectors have acted as Certifying Officers for this scheme at Huxley and the certifying fees have been paid to the Council by the Ministry.

Cows are also sent for slaughter and examination at this slaughterhouse under the Tuberculosis (Slaughter of Reactors) Order, 1950 and the Ministry's Veterinary Officers are very active in this matter under the programme to eradicate this disease in cattle.

Details of animals slaughtered for human consumption in the Council's area during the year, with particulars of each class of animal found to be unfit for human consumption are shown in the following table in the form suggested by the Ministry of Health:—

YEAR 1957	Cattle ex Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses	TOTAL
Numbers killed	1,059	1,738	493	3,619	3,487	—	10,396
Numbers inspected	1,059	1,738	493	3,619	3,487	—	10,396

All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.

Whole carcasses							
condemned	12	80	41	16	52	—	201
Part carcasses							
condemned	249	573	16	319	754	—	1,911
Percentage affected	24.64	35.57	11.56	9.25	23.11	—	20.32

Tuberculosis Only.

Whole carcasses							
condemned	2	23	—	—	3	—	28
Part carcasses							
condemned	90	453	5	—	64	—	612
Percentage affected	8.7	27.38	1.02	—	1.92	—	6.16

YEAR 1957	Cattle ex Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses	TOTAL
Cysticercosis.							
Part carcasses							
condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Refrigeration							
treatment	7	19	—	—	—	—	26
Whole carcasses							
condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Reasons for Condemnation of Whole Carcasses.

General tuberculosis	....	28	General oedema	....	41
Moribund	....	22	Septic metritis	....	2
Septicaemia	....	14	Acute febrility	....	20
Pathological emaciation		35	Umbilical pyaemia	....	11
Immaturity	....	7	Multiple abscesses	....	1
General bruising	....	4	Septic pericarditis	....	5
Peritonitis	....	7	Gangrenous pneumonia		8
Pyaemia	....	7	Icteric	....	2
Pyeo-nephritis	....	3	Septic peritonitis	....	4
Other diseases	....	8			

During the year a total of 410 animals were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis (Slaughter of Reactors) Order, 1950.

Localised tuberculosis was found in 350 of these and no tubercular lesions were visible on post mortem examination in 60.

13 cows in addition were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

If this total of 423 cows sent for slaughter by reason of suspected tuberculosis is separated from the normal fatstock kill, the number of cows affected with tuberculosis is reduced to 53 out of 1,315 a percentage of 4.03.

The total weight of carcase meat and offals condemned by your Food Inspectors as unfit for human consumption was 31 tons 17 cwt. 23 lbs.

Disposal of Condemned Meat.

Condemned meat is collected from the slaughterhouses by contractors for treatment and disposal for purposes other than human consumption.

Dealers object to having condemned meat coloured, as prejudicing the sale for animal feeding. The proposed new legislation may require the compulsory staining of condemned meat at the slaughterhouses, and sterilising treatment by licensed dealers before re-sale as dog meat to the public.

It has long been my opinion that such a requirement is necessary for the protection of the public.

Inspection of other Foods.

The weight of canned meat and other foods at local shops and depots found to be unfit for human consumption was 1 qr. 6 lbs.

Cysticercus Bovis.

26 cases of cysticercus bovis were discovered during the year.

Details were sent to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in accordance with Circular M.F. 5/48.

The carcasses were sent for refrigeration for 21 days as recommended by the Ministry.

Food Adulteration.

The following report of work under the adulteration provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 has been supplied by Mr. Stacey Hallard, Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, Cheshire County Council, in relation to the year ending 31st December, 1957:—

Nature of Sample.	Number obtained	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality	
Butter	1	—	—
Coconut, Desicated	1	—	—
Cod Liver Oil	1	—	—
Coffee and Chicory Essence	2	—	—
Cream, Tinned	1	—	—
Flour, Plain	3	—	2
Gin	1	—	—
Jellies, Table	1	—	—
Liquid Paraffin	1	—	—
Margarine	1	—	—
Meat, Paste, Veal and Ham	1	—	—
Milk	24	—	1
Mustard	1	—	—
Vinegar, Malt	1	—	—
Whisky	1	—	—
	41	—	3

Particulars of Non-Standard Samples.

No.	Sample	Result of Analysis	Remarks
1.	Milk	Genuine but abnormal milk deficient in solids-not-fat to the extent of 2.3 per cent.	Retail. No action as sample was genuine.
2.	Plain Flour	Deficient in creta praeparata (chalk)	No action.
3.	Plain Flour	Excess of creta praeparata	No action.

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928/36.

Petroleum Stores.

The Council is responsible for conditions under which petroleum spirit or mixtures are stored in the District. Co-operation is maintained with the County Fire Brigade, who periodically inspect stores of inflammable materials under the Fire Services Act, 1948. The Council enforce the provisions of the Petroleum Act but no formal notices were served during the year.

Number of licensed stores on the register at December, 1956	105
Number of licensed stores discontinued at January, 1957	5
Number of existing licenses to store renewed in 1957	100
Number of new stores inspected and licensed	5
Number of transfers of licences	1
Total number of licensed stores on register at Dec., 1957	105

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 50 (Burial of the Dead).

No action was called for during 1957 under the above Section of the Act.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

The licensing of any premises including a stall or market barrow, where pet animals are sold is a duty of this Council.

No licences under the Act have been granted during the year.

Rag, Flock and other Filling Materials Act, 1951.

No applications for registration under the Act were received during the year.

There are certain upholsterers in the District who repair soft furnishings, but at present they are excluded from the requirements to register.

Local Legislation.

Public Health Amendment Act, 1890, Part 3 (adopted 12th August, 1890).

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, Section 1 (adopted 5th April, 1938).

Building Bye-laws (adopted 21st November, 1953).

The Cheshire County Council Act, 1953. Certain sections of this Act are in operation automatically in all districts of the County.

The adoptive sections of the Act are still under consideration.

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

South-West Cheshire Divisional Health
Committee

ANNUAL REPORT

1957

Dr. WALTER J. BIRCHALL

M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

(Divisional Medical Officer)

16 White Friars,
Chester.

Telephone Chester 20071 (2 lines).

**ANNUAL REPORT ON HEALTH SERVICES OF
SOUTH-WEST CHESHIRE DIVISION
FOR THE YEAR 1957.**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report on the work of the Divisional Health Committee for the year 1957.

The Division includes the Borough of Ellesmere Port and the Rural Districts of Chester and Tarvin. The total population at 1st April according to the Registrar General's latest figures (mid 1956) is 79,240, and the area is 115,414 acres, which is the equivalent of 0.68 persons per acre. The number of inhabited houses is approximately 22,997, and the combined rateable value for 1957 is £1,138,317.

The chief pre-occupation during the year has again been Poliomyelitis Vaccination. This measure, which had a tremendous emotional effect on press and public alike, also had an overwhelming impact on the resources of Health Authorities throughout the Country. This Division was no exception. Combined with a variety of other Immunisations and Vaccinations, sympathy must be felt for these hapless infants (and their parents) who are thus subject to a whole barrage of injections in the early tender months of their young lives. And let us spare a thought for the overworked staff, especially the clerical staff, who are called upon to administer the scheme in all its meticulous details.

Our clerical staff has again suffered casualties through sickness and resignation, which we have tried to counteract not always successfully I fear by the engagement of occasional temporary clerks.

In other directions, Ambulance, Domestic Help and Welfare Foods Services, have continued at their normal pace.

Measles and Whooping Cough were again prominent amongst the Infectious Diseases notified; in fact there was quite an Epidemic of Measles during the first half of the year.

The expected epidemic of Asian Influenza arrived in September, 1957, and seriously affected the school population and to a less extent the young adult population. Though generally mild it had a devastating effect on some schools for a few weeks; in some cases more than half the pupils and teachers were affected and were absent. Fortunately the very young and the aged were not so susceptible to the infection, and the numbers affected in these groups were comparatively small.

We would again express our indebtedness to the Voluntary Helpers at Clinics and Welfare Food Centres throughout the Division for their invaluable services on our behalf.

I am, Your obedient Servant,

WALTER J. BIRCHALL,

M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

**CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
SOUTH-WEST CHESHIRE DIVISIONAL
HEALTH COMMITTEE**

Report for Year ended 31st December, 1957.

N.H.S. Act, 1946 (Section 22) —

Care of Mothers and Young Children.

A. Mothers' Clinics.

				New Cases	Total Attendances
Ante-Natal	....	....	....	329	2,393
Post-Natal	....	....	....	120	133
Dental:					
Pre-Natal	....	....	....	—	—
Nursing Mothers	....	....	....	5	8
Dentures Supplied	....	....	....	—	—

B. Young Children's Clinics:

				New Cases	Total Attendances
(1) Infant Welfare—					
To 1 year	....	....	....	853	9,513
1—2 years	....	....	....	—	1,773
2—5 years	....	....	....	—	1,667
(2) Specialist—					
Ophthalmic	....	....	....	21	68
Dental Treatment (under 5)	....	....	....	104	117
E.N.T. (under 5)	....	....	....	19	20

(3) **Day Nurseries—**

				Daily Average Number Attending	Total Attendances
Aged 0—2 years	....	....	....	12	3,017
2—5 years	....	....	....	32	7,749

Details of figures (where they relate to more than one Clinic) are given hereunder:—

Eye Clinics:—

				New Cases	Total Attendances
Hoole	....	....	....	5	10
Ellesmere Port	....	....	....	16	58
Totals	....	....	....	21	68
Number of children under five for whom spectacles were prescribed				10	
Number of cases recommended for hospital treatment	....	....	....	3	

Welfare Centres:	New Cases		Total Attendances	
	0—1	0—1	1—2	2—5
Barrow	8	140	125	78
*Christleton	18	29	3	15
Ellesmere Port	281	3,312	306	203
Farndon	16	187	49	113
Huntington	26	269	82	76
Ince	18	226	24	41
Kelsall	42	462	122	185
Little Sutton	150	1,664	351	246
Malpas	25	197	40	116
Overpool	114	1,020	58	3
Saughall	34	297	121	146
Tarvin	24	365	148	178
Tattenhall	24	322	51	53
Upton	73	1,123	293	214
	853	9,613	1,773	1,667

* Commenced 21st November, 1957.

SPECIAL COMMENTS

WELFARE CENTRES AND DAY NURSERY

Welfare Centres.

The Ellesmere Port Welfare Centre was decorated externally and part internally at a cost of £208 18s. 0d., and curtains were purchased at a cost of £18 10s. 0d.

The Welfare Centre at Little Sutton was partly decorated internally at a cost of £64.

A new Welfare Clinic was established at the Women's Institute Christleton in November, clinics are being held twice per month, on the first and third Thursday afternoon of each month.

The Committee approved the loan of the site for the new Boughton Welfare Centre to the Boughton Parish Council for use as a Children's Playground.

Welfare Foods (Ministry).

The distribution of Welfare Foods continued satisfactorily largely owing to the splendid co-operation of the voluntary persons and members of the W.V.S., who have been most helpful.

A new distribution point was opened in November at Christleton. The Distribution Point at The Dale, Chester, closed at the end of November.

The following is a summary of the number of articles issued during the year:

N.D.M.	C.L.O.	A/D Tablets	OJ.
26,459	5,563	2,287	36,732

The above figures shew a marked decrease in the issues of National Dried Milk, 31,808 tins were issued last year. It is thought that the decrease is largely owing to the increase in price.

Day Nursery, Ellesmere Port.

Attendances during the March quarter were lower than for the remainder of the year, average attendances ranging from 35 to 43 children per day. The absences were mainly owing to coughs, colds, and other respiratory infections. During the June quarter the attendances improved averaging between 40 and 51 children per day, and during the September quarter, the average attendance was 50. The last quarter of the year attendances shewed the customary decline, falling to 42 during the month of December, again absences were owing to coughs, colds, etc.

Apart from the Influenza epidemic of September and October, when 23 children and 7 of the Staff were affected, the general health of the children and staff has been quite good.

At the close of the year there were 63 children on the register, of whom 23 were priority cases. In addition there was a waiting list of 109.

The Matron and the Staff organised a Sale of Work in October at the Day Nursery, the proceeds of which helped to provide additional toys, and enabled the Matron to hold a successful Christmas Party for the children. The Christmas Party was held in December, and the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. W. H. Backhouse, kindly undertook the duties of Father Christmas and gave each child a present.

There have been a few staff changes during the year, Mrs. S. C. Tilley, the Deputy Matron resigned in August, and Mrs. H. J. Bryson, was appointed in her place. One Nursery Student resigned during the year and was accordingly replaced by a new appointment.

The Nursery was closed for the Annual Holiday from the 29th July to the 10th August.

The Nursery was internally decorated (part only) at a cost of £97 10s. 0d.

The Committee approved the annual replacements of Linen and Soft Furnishings. Overalls, Hardware and Crockery, Canvas Seats and backs for Children's chairs, and the fitting with Berlam of 18 Children's Dining tables, and repairs to 24 Rest beds. The last two items were carried out by Wrenbury Hall Industries.

Costs.

A comparative Statement on the costs of the Day Nursery for the year ended 31st March, 1956, was received from the County Treasurer, and the daily cost per child during the year was as follows:

1955/56 — 12/9d.	1956/57 — 13/0 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.
------------------	---------------------------------

Average cost throughout the County was—

1955/56 — 11/11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	1956/57 — 12/7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.
----------------------------------	---------------------------------

MIDWIVES

Number of Births 1,484 (including 27 stillbirths).
(adjusted for inward and outward transfers).

MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING

Transport.

Two new cars were received during the year, one an Austin A35 for the Tarvin District Nurse, the other a Ford Popular for the Kelsall District Nurse. The old cars were sold through the Measham Motor Sales Organisation for £162 19s. 6d. and £174 5s. 0d. respectively.

A reconditioned engine was fitted to the Tattenhall District Nurse's car, and repairs were carried out to the Tarvin Assistant District Nurse's car at a cost of £28 10s. 0d. Apart from these, no other major repairs were carried out to the cars of the District Nurses/Midwives.

CONVALESCENCE

The sum of £155 0s. 0d. was allocated for the year ending 31st March, 1958, for Convalescent treatment.

Two cases were each sent for two weeks convalescence at the Lear Home of Recovery, West Kirby at a cost to the County Council of £14.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Total fees paid for the period 1-1-57—31-12-57 amounted to £600 17s. 6d.

Statistics are as stated below:—

A. Vaccination.

			Males	Females	Total
1.	Primary Vaccination—				
	(a) Pre-School Children	....	333	337	670
	(b) School Children	....	3	16	19
	(c) Adults	.... ....	11	22	33
	Total	.... ....	347	375	722
2.	Re-Vaccination.				
	(a) Pre-School Children	....	3	1	4
	(b) School Children	....	4	3	7
	(c) Adults	.... ....	45	49	94
	Total	.... ....	52	53	105

B. Diphtheria Immunisation.

Incomplete.

(a) Pre-School Children	....	36	31	67
(b) School Children	....	—	—	—
Total	.... ....	36	31	67

			Males	Females	Total
Completed.					
(a)	Pre-School Children	....	372	333	705
(b)	School Children	....	7	2	9
	Total	....	379	335	714
	Re-Immunised All Children	....	43	52	95
C. Whooping Cough Immunisation.					
(a)	Pre-School Children	....	510	452	962
(b)	School Children	....	6	8	14
	Total	....	516	460	976

These figures are not final as records are still being received for services performed during 1957.

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

The Scheme for the vaccination against Poliomyelitis continued throughout the year. At the beginning of the year there were 3,020 children born between the years 1947-54 on the register awaiting vaccination, 2,937 of whom had not had any injections, 83 had had one injection. In addition a further 700 applications for registration were received during the year from parents of children within this age group.

In June the Ministry further extended the scheme to include children born in the years 1955 and 1956. 1,496 children in this age group were registered in July, and applications for registration continued to be received throughout the remainder of the year.

At the end of the year there were 2,835 children on the register awaiting vaccination of whom only 450 had had one injection, the remainder had had none.

The following vaccinations were carried out during the year:—

Number of children who received two injections during the year	....	....	....	....	....	2,623
Number of children who received their second injection during the year, having had their first injection the previous year	....	....	....	....	....	73
Number of children who received the first injection only during the year	....	....	....	....	....	450

The Vaccinations were carried out at the following Centres:—
Ellesmere Port, Little Sutton, Upton, Hoole, Divisional Office, Chester, Huntington, Kelsall, Tarvin, Tattenhall, Malpas, Farndon, Saughall, Christleton, Ince, Barrow, Pulford, Dodleston, Tarporley and Mickle Trafford.

B.C.G. VACCINATION

The scheme for the B.C.G. Vaccination of schoolchildren between their 13th and 14th birthdays continued throughout the year.

The following is a summary of the work carried out:—

Number of Consent forms issued	....	....	....	706
Number of Children for whom Consent forms were returned	....	....	....	526
Number of Children tested by Mantoux Test	....	....	....	482
Number of Children positive to Mantoux Test	....	....	....	97
Number of Children Vaccinated with B.C.G.	....	....	....	358
Number of Children given 8 weeks follow up Mantoux Test	....	....	....	483
Number of Children positive to 8 weeks follow up Mantoux Test	....	....	....	452
Number of Children given 12 months follow up Mantoux Test	....	....	....	179
No. of Children positive to 12 months follow up Mantoux Test	....	....	....	154

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The total mileage performed by the vehicles of the Divisional Ambulance Service is very much the same as in the previous year. The number of patients transported however, shewed an increase of 2,350 patients over the previous year.

A new Bedford Dual Purpose vehicle was received in September, replacing Austin Sitting Case Car NMB 736. The Austin Sitting Case car was sold through the Measham Motor Sales Organisation for the sum of £339 4s. 6d.

The Humber Ambulance MLG 928 was fitted with a reconditioned engine and clutch assembly.

A Stephenson Minuteman Resuscitator was purchased at a cost of £128 3s. 0d.

The Supervisor was awarded a 5 year Medal, and four Driver/Attendants were awarded Diplomas by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents.

	No of Vehicles 1	Total No. of Journeys 2	Total No. Patients carried 3	No. of Accident and Emergency Journeys included in Column 3 4	Total Mileage 5
A. Directly Provided					
Ambulances	3	2,074	5,859	691	42,737
Cars	4	2,776	10,178	236	97,233
B. By Agency					
Ambulances	5	2,686	2,686	314	17,873
Cars	—	—	—	—	—
(Chester City Amb.)					
C. Supplementary					
Ambulances	—	8	8	6	173
Cars	—	113	138	—	4,547
W.V.S., Taxi, etc.					

A comparative Statement on the costs of the Ambulance Service for the year ended 31st March, 1957, was received from the County Treasurer, and the cost per mile was $2\frac{3}{4}$ d. per mile. The average cost throughout the County was $2\frac{6}{8}$ d. per mile.

The personnel establishment of the Ambulance Service is as follows:—

- 1 Supervisor.
- 1 Senior Driver.
- 13 Driver Attendants.
- 1 Driver Mechanic.
- 1 Female Cleaner (part time).

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

The demand for the Domestic Help Service remained constant throughout the year. Apart from 23 cases, the help has been given to aged persons who are infirm and in need of assistance. The number of hours that domestic help is given to each patient varies from 3 hours to 44 hours per week, and the duration of the Service varies in accordance with the need of each particular case. In some cases the need is a permanent one, in other cases temporary for those awaiting admission to hospital or a County Welfare Home, or in many cases for the remainder of the patient's life.

The following is a summary of the cases of continued need at the end of the year:—

- 4 cases have had Domestic Help for 6 years.
- 4 cases have had Domestic Help for 5 years.
- 2 cases have had Domestic Help for 4 years.
- 3 cases have had Domestic Help for 3 years.
- 8 cases have had Domestic Help for 2 years.
- 13 cases have had Domestic Help for 1 year.
- 24 cases have had Domestic Help for less than 1 year.

Every effort was made in conjunction with the Health Visitors, to keep the costs down to a minimum without impairing the efficiency of the service.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year:—

- A. Number of new applicants 94 (of these 24 were cancelled).
- B. Number of Domestic Helps employed at 31-12-57 — 53.
- C. Number of cases attended during the year — 120.
- D. Number of cases of continued need at 31-12-57 — 58.

30 cases were brought to the attention of the Committee during the year.

8 cases were defined as Future Recovery cases.

8 Future Recovery cases were cancelled.

In 1 Future Recovery case weekly payments were accepted from the accumulated balance.

In 4 Future Recovery cases collection was deferred.

In 1 Future Recovery case the County Treasurer was authorised to recover the accumulative balance.

In 3 cases, the debt was cancelled.

In 1 case, the debt was referred to the County Clerk for necessary action.

In 4 cases, the assessment was reduced.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS — CARE AND AFTERCARE TUBERCULOSIS

A. Number of cases investigated in Division:—

(1) Tuberculosis—

(a) No. of Forms C. & A.C. 4 completed (Primary Investigation)	36
(b) No. of Forms C. & A.C. 22 completed (Follow-up visits)	271
(c) No. of cases where patient has been found to have:—	
(a) Removed from area	8
(b) Been cured	—
(c) Recovered	11
(d) Died	8

(2) Other than Tuberculosis—

All cases of chronic illness awaiting admission to Chronic Wards or suitable Institutions are visited regularly by Health Visitors until admission is effected.

B. Number of cases placed in employment (Disabled Persons Act) Nil

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED 1957

DISTRICT	DISEASE															
	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Measles		Pneumonia		Dysentery		Food Poisoning		Erysipelas		Acute Poliomyelitis	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Paralytic	Non-Paralytic
Ellesmere Port																
Municipal Borough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chester Rural																
District	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tarvin Rural																
District	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

STATISTICS RELATING TO CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS ON NOTIFICATION REGISTERS OF DISTRICT COUNCILS IN THE DIVISION

	MALES			FEMALES			TOTAL	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1. Cases on Register at 1-1-57	244	90	334	240	79	319	484	169
2. Cases notified and transfers into area during year	30	2	32	23	6	29	53	8
3. Number of Cases removed from Register during year	13	3	16	11	—	11	24	3
4. Cases on Register at 31-12-57	261	89	350	252	85	337	*513	*174
								*687

* This figure is made up as follows:—

	Non-Pulmonary		Total
1. Ellesmere Port M.B.	254	83	337
2. Chester R.D.C.	162	38	200
3. Tarvin R.D.C.	97	53	150
	513	174	687

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 — PART III.

In my capacity as the Representative of the County Medical Officer of Health, I carried out two visits of inspection to Shotwick House, Great Saughall. Very little change had taken place since 1956 and the excellent conditions of this establishment continued to maintain a high level.

ESTIMATES, 1958/59.

Estimates for the year 1958/59 were submitted, and following is a summary of the items recommended to the County Health Committee for approval and inclusion in the block estimates:—

	£
Welfare Centres	2,330
Day Nursery	2,485
Midwifery	185
Health Visiting	30
Home Nursing	1,455
Vaccination and Immunisation	690
Poliomyelitis Vaccination	305
Ambulance Service	6,745
Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care	325
Domestic Helps	3,950
Administration	6,410
Payment of County Districts for Notifica- tions of Infectious Diseases	250
	£25,160

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